

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 06216 141206Z

44

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

----- 006405

Z 141142Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 1107

S E C R E T BEIRUT 6216

EXDIS

DEPT PLEASE TREAT AS NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE, US, AEMR

SUBJECT: EVACUATION FROM LEBANON

REF: BEIRUT 6163

1. WHILE DEPARTMENT IS REVIEWING MY RECOMMENDATION THAT WE CLOSE DOWN THIS EMBASSY AND EVACUATE REMAINING AMERICANS FROM LEBANON, DEPT MAY WISH TO CONSIDER ACCOMPLISHING THIS EVACUATION IN TWO STAGES, AS FOLLOWS:

2. IN FIRST STAGE WE WOULD MAKE STRONGEST POSSIBLE CASE TO AMERICANS THAT THEY SHOULD LEAVE LEBANON AT THIS TIME (DURING COMING WEEK), AND SIMULTANEOUSLY REDUCE EMBASSY STAFF TO 10 PEOPLE. IN SO DOING, WE WOULD ANNOUNCE TO AMERICANS THAT BECAUSE OF MAJOR REDUCTION IN SIZE OF AMERICAN EMBASSY, USG WILL HENCEFORTH BE UNABLE TO PROVIDE CUSTOMARY PROTECTION SERVICES. THIS WOULD ADD URGENCY TO OUR EXHORTATION THAT AMERICAN CITIZENS MUST DEPART.

3. SECOND STAGE OF EVACUATION WOULD BE TO REMOVE REMAINING 10 PERSONS, AS WELL AS FEW AMERICANS WHO MIGHT STILL REMAIN. SECOND STAGE WOULD BE TRIGGERED TWO WEEKS OR MORE AFTER XEXECUTION OF FIRST STAGE, TIMING TO DEPEND ON POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS. EVACUATING

THIS SMALLER GROUP WOULD BE MORE MANAGEABLE AND, IF NECESSARY, COULD ALWAYS BE DONE BY HELICOPTER IF SITUATION HAS DETERIORATED

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 06216 141206Z

BADLY.

4. ADVANTAGE OF THIS TWO-STAGE APPROACH IS THAT WE AVOID DESTABILIZING PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT ON OUR LEBANESE FRIENDS OF SUDDEN ONE-TIME EXCISION. WE ALSO KEEP OUR OPTIONS OPEN A LITTLE LONGER IN EVENT ARAB LEAGUE CONCILIATION EFFORTS SUCCEED AND/OR THE UNEXPECTED HAPPENS AND FUEL SUPPLIES TO RUN OUR GENERATOR LONGER BECOME AVAILABLE--MAKING IT LESS ESSENTIAL TO GET EVERYONE OUT OF HERE SO SOON. (IN ANY CASE, WE HAVE ENOUGH FUEL FOR UP TO 4 MORE WEEKS, NOT COUNTING POSSIBLE REPLENISHMENT.) WE HUS WOULD RETAIN SOME FLEXIBILITY AND AVOID CAUSIN PANIC IN PRO-AMERICAN LEBANESE COMMUNITY. YET WE WILL HAVE EXTRICATED MAJORITY OF AMERICANS STILL HERE, SERVED WARNING TO THOSE WHO DO STAY AND DEMONSTRATEDPUBLICLY A MODICUM OF HOPE THAT THINGS WON'T FALL COMPLETELY TO PIECES IN WEST BEIRUT.

5. STATUS OF EMBASSY PROTECTIVE SERVICES FOLLOWING EXECUTION OF FIRST-STAGE EVACUATION WOULD NEED TO BE CLOSE WATCHED, AND WOULD ALSO SERVE AS A GUIDE AS TO WHEN SECOND STAGE SHOULD BE INITIATED. IF ALL GUARDS ARE SUDENLY WITHDRAWN, TINY STAFF COULD BE MOVED OUT RELATIVELY EASILY AND QUICKLY. MEANWHILE, I WAS TOLD TODAY BY LEBANESE PARLIAMENTARY ROPUTY THAT NEW EDDE-LED NATIONAL FRONT IS ENDEAVORING TO ORGANIZE MUNICIPAL AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES FOR WEST BEIRUT AND THAT PLO'S ARAFAT HAS EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO ABANDON THESE RESPONSIBILITIES. WHILE THIS IS A THIN REED TO LEAN ON, WE MIGHT WANT TO GIVE OURSELVES TIME TO SEE WHETHER ANYTHING TANGIBLE DEVELOPS ON THIS SCORE.
SEELYE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EMERGENCY EVACUATION, SECURITY, EVACUATION PLANS, CAT-A, DIPLOMATIC MISSION CLOSING, BRIEFING MATERIALS, TEXT NOT-TRANSMITTED TO ISO
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BEIRUT06216
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P840086-1780, D760272-0133
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760761/aaaacbmr.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 BEIRUT 6163
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <18 OCT 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EVACUATION FROM LEBANON
TAGS: PFOR, AEMR, LE, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006